



PACT ACT FOR WOMEN VETERANS

YOU BELONG AT VA

The **PACT Act** is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. Women Veterans, we know you were there too. VA is here for you.

The Act **(1)** expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era, and **(2)** expands eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances.



What new or expanded presumptions will the Act create and when will they be in effect?

VETERANS AND SURVIVORS CAN FILE CLAIMS FOR ALL CONDITIONS OUTLINED IN THE PACT ACT IMMEDIATELY.

For Gulf War and Post-9/11 Veterans, that includes:

Brain cancer, [Glioblastoma](#), Respiratory (*breathing-related*) cancer of any type, [Gastrointestinal cancer of any type](#), Head cancer of any type, [Lymphoma of any type](#), Neck cancer of any type, [Pancreatic cancer](#), and Reproductive cancer of any type, including [cervical](#), ovarian, [uterine and breast cancers](#). Vaginal and vulvar cancers are also on the presumptive list.

For Vietnam Veterans and other Veterans exposed to tactical herbicides, that includes two Agent Orange presumptive conditions:

High blood pressure (hypertension) and [Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance \(MGUS\)](#).

How can Veterans apply for VA health care?

Apply **online** at [VA.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction](https://va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction).

Call our toll-free hotline at 877-222-8387, M-F, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET.

Mail a completed, signed Application for Health Benefits ([VA Form 10-10EZ](#)).

Bring a completed, signed VA Form 10-10EZ with you to your [nearest medical center or clinic](#) or get help through your [state's Department of Veterans Affairs Service Officer](#).

Get help filing your claim by working with an [accredited representative](#).

What are the PACT Act key components?



The Act **expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic-exposures** and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.



VA **will improve the decision-making process** for determining what medical conditions will be considered for presumptive status.



Every enrolled Veteran will **receive an initial toxic exposure screening** and a follow-up screening at least every five years. Veterans who are not enrolled, but who are eligible to enroll, will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.



VA health care staff and claims processors will receive **toxic exposure-related education and training**.



The Act requires **research studies** on mortality of Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War, Post-9/11 Veteran health trends, and Veteran cancer rates.



The Act will help VA **build a stronger, more skilled workforce** to meet the growing demand for benefits and services.



The Act authorizes **31 new facilities** across the country, providing greater access to VA health care.

How can a Veteran file a claim?



Veterans who would like to file a claim must complete [VA Form 21-526EZ](#) to apply for benefits and submit any supportive evidence.



To learn about standard VA disability claims, supplemental claims, secondary claims, and more, visit: [VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file](https://va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file).

If a Veteran was previously denied a claim, what can they do?

VA will contact Veterans when a presumption of service connection is established or changed. However, **Veterans previously denied a toxic-exposure related claim** are encouraged to file a supplemental claim. Once a supplemental claim is received, VA will review the claim under the new law.

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

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Download the VA Health and Benefits App
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
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